

HARD TIMES

GLASGOW ANARCHIST GROUP GREAT PAPER.

No. 1e.

Price 15p.



The **WHOLE WORD** could be **YOURS** when you enter the

WORLD TO BE
Money GONE
To Burn!
See page 6

A COUNTER ATTACK!

YOU COULD HAVE HEARD A PIN DROP DOWN AT MY LOCAL SOCIAL SECURITY OFFICE. ALL OF A SUDDEN UPROAR. "CHARGE HER." "GET THE POLICE." AND THAT IS WHAT HAPPENED. A SOCIAL SECURITY CLERK WAS CHARGED WITH ASSAULTING A CLAIMANT.

That is right. This is not a typical story of a claimant frustrated and desperate going over the score with a smart-ass clerk.

In this case the clerk is alleged to have slapped the claimant - totally unprovoked. Several witnesses were present. In most other respects this was a typical case.

The claimant was stoney broke. No money to buy the tea that night. No money to pay the rent. In fact he was worried sick.

But he stayed cool, because, unlike many people, he knew he had a right to make an 'Urgent Needs' claim which would mean an on the spot payment.

After going through the normal procedure, he got £4. That is he had to wait for two or three hours, getting pushed from person to person and being told that an over-the-counter payment "Just isn't possible".

COMPLAINT
He knew £4 would hardly be enough. So he started to make out a complaint form.

Now a complaint form goes straight to the high ups and means all kind of bother for the local office. It rather suggests that the local office cannot do the job properly - that is put off claimants without a fuss.

It was while the clerk was trying to prevent the complaint being drawn up that the alleged assault took place.

We would well imagine that the clerk was under pressure both from overwork and being pressured by her boss, but if she had read the top secret codes her behaviour might have been different.

The standard procedure, if a claimant is being too pushy, is to retire to the back office and let them "stew for a while" (and everyone else in the queue which gets the claimants fighting amongst themselves).

The reason the 'A' and 'AX' codes are secret is that they clearly state procedures for deliberately harassing the claimant and misinforming them of their rights. In fact the DHSS admitted

last year that claimants had been cheated out of £300 million to which they were entitled (See Bread and Roses No.2).

The newly elected government has made a commitment to putting pressure on 'scroungers' who make money for nothing and forcing them into low paid jobs.

No. We are not talking about the House of Lords, but the most miserable 1% of the British people (most of whom live in Glasgow by the way).

Of course, there are no jobs available to force the 'scroungers' into. For every job offered there are 65 applicants and the figure is as high as 1-500 in some areas.

Don't worry, the Tories have promised to increase profits and that will mean more jobs, if only the 'scroungers' and wasters can be persuaded to take even more cuts in real wages. All this is aimed at producing jobs (sic)?

In my area alone - Clydeside - they have just announced that 10,000 shipbuilding jobs are to be scrapped and whole communities are to become ghost towns.

With thousands more coming onto the dole queue, it is even more vital that claimants join together in Claimants Unions to fight for a decent standard of living with or without a job.

They must be careful not to fall into the trap of 'co-operating' with the SS who have shown time and again that the velvet glove conceals a computerised iron fist that has been programmed by the government to squeeze us dry.

It is quite obvious that the attacks on claimants are part of a wider attack aimed at softening up the working class. A recent government report on the distribution of wealth showed that the Labour government was successful in this. The proportion of wealth owned by the top 1% increased dramatically during the so-called crisis. The Tory government are determined not to be out done. After all they have a reputation to keep up.



IF THE CAP FITS



YOUR HEAD IS TOO THICK

For anything except
STRATHCLYDE POLICE

JOINT PAPER

This publication is a joint venture between the ANARCHIST COMMUNIST ASSOCIATION and the GLASGOW ANARCHIST GROUP.

G.A.G produced pages 5, 6 & 7.

The views expressed in anyone article do not necessarily represent the views of the A.C.A or G.A.G.

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RETURN OF THE KNITTING NEEDLE

The bill to tighten up the abortion laws seems to be sailing through Parliament. It is already at the committee stage.

The new Bill will make it virtually impossible to get an abortion for economic or social reasons.

The Bill contains the following attacks on women's rights.

- It could be impossible to get an abortion after 27 weeks. The time limit is 28 weeks at the moment.
- It will be harder for a GP. to approve an abortion.
- Many women's advice centres may be forced to close.
- Government spending cuts will severely affect NHS. abortion facilities.

None of these restrictions will apply to the rich who will, as always, be able to buy their privileges.

Words could hardly describe the desperation that would drive less privileged women to the butchers and backstreet abortionists.

Alas, the figures tell their own grisly tale. Their was a horrid amount of death and mutilation during the previous times of parliamentary restric-

tions on abortion. If Corrie's new Bill is allowed to succeed, unmarried women, women experiencing menopause schoolgirls, women whose contraceptive has failed and women whose GP. deliberately delayed referring them will be forced to continue with an unwanted pregnancy.

What right have MEN in Westminster got to tell WOMEN what to do with the rest of their lives. It must be a woman's choice.

If women are to have true freedom of choice then abortion must be freely available.

If it was, then the question of late abortions would not arise and the sensationalist press would have to look elsewhere for their horror stories and scandal.

In the end, of course, we must do more than defend our rights to

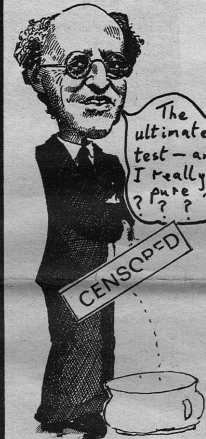
control our bodies.

We must fight to control our lives. And that means doing away with the Westminster boys altogether.

Then we will have true freedom:
Freedom from control by the bosses;
Freedom from hardship;
Freedom to enjoy our parenthood;
And freedom to choose the world we bring our children into.



A LOAD OF PISS



THE EVENING TIMES of Saturday July 7th reports an unusual little experiment being conducted by a Dr John Hinton of Glasgow University. The Scottish Home and Health Dept. have given him a second grant of £5000 to continue research into what makes violent criminals violent. The answer, it appears, is in their urine.

PREDICTION
Dr Hinton's fascination with urine is so great that he has 600 inmates of Scottish prisons and borstals supplying him with samples at regular intervals. And by careful examination of this urine, Dr Hinton expects to be able to tell us all what makes people commit violent criminal acts.

A link will be found, he hopes, between chemicals in the prisoners' urine and the type of crime committed.

OLD IDEA
In other words, Hinton is employing £10,000 in procuring an ocean of deviant urine in order to bolster up a tired old idea; namely that the impulse to violent or criminal acts is simply one of the natural endowments of the indi-

vidual, like hair colour or eye colour.

This idea, for which there has never been a shred of evidence, has long been popular with champions of the established social order, for it deflects responsibility from a society founded on hierarchy and exploitation, a society rife with deprivation, powerlessness and frustration

CON
How much more convenient for the Establishment to claim that violence is not the product of a particular warped society but the result of a deviant chemistry! So keen are they on this lunatic project that they are prepared to spend £10,000 on what is, after all is said and done, a load of old piss.

HARD LABOUR

A councillor and ex-councillor are at the receiving end of harsh criticisms from tenants in a housing scheme in Glasgow.

Castlemilk is a post war housing scheme of 10,000 council houses and a population of around 45,000 people. Despite the fact that it is the largest scheme in Europe, Castlemilk has few amenities. There are no pubs, cafes, restaurants, cinemas, bingo halls, theatres or even adequate facilities for kids.

This impressive record has been maintained over Castlemilk's 23 years of existence by the dedication to inactivity of the local councillors. Not surprisingly, therefore, the main ambition of many people in Castlemilk is to get out, that is to get a transfer to another area. And again, not surprisingly the local councillors prove themselves about as useful as a dux with a hole in it.

The current favorite for the "Screw the People" award is Labour councillor George Manson. George is renowned for his shrewdness, rudeness, booziness (not necessarily in

that order). Local people talk of his "disgusting manner" and express the opinion that he is a "very ignorant man". Again, despite his inability to help tenants with their applications for housing transfers, George had no difficulty in getting a transfer himself to a "desirable area". He did this by "jumping the queue" and getting his case dealt with by the Council's Special Cases Committee! Well, you must admit, George is certainly a special case!

Around the time George was queue-hopping, another Labour councillor, Pat Lally, a boozing, sorry bosom buddy of George's - found himself in a rather sticky situation. Pat was Chairman of the Housing Committee when another (yes, another) Labour councillor had fiddled her son a house. Well, the stink got out, and a full investigation was promised by councillors, officials and the police. Pat was suspended, then bombed out of the Labour Party. Time grew longer and people's memories of the scandal shorter. No charges

were made by the police, and Lally managed to creep back into the Labour Party. As if this wasn't incredible enough, there is even the possibility/threat that he may be trying for re-election in the near future!

So, although people in Castlemilk have little faith in councillors generally, you can see the particular concern over the continuance of the colourful careers of these two champions of the working class. At the moment there is a vigorous campaign by local people (some of whom have supported the Labour Party all their lives) to warn their neighbours of the folly of re-electing either Manson or Lally and continuing the mistakes of the last 23 years.

Real change can only come of course when people no longer entrust their lives to councillors officials and other arse-holes. "We cannot prevent ourselves being distrustful even of those who have won our votes. King's palaces are not the only homes of despots."

Jean Varlet.

WORLD TO WIN

NEVER HAVE THERE BEEN SUCH PRIZES
1st PRIZE.
The WHOLE WORLD can be yours, with the Freedom to do what you like.
2nd PRIZE.
All the money in the world will be YOURS TO BURN
WHAT YOU DO.
All you have to do is say it not more than 141 words WHAT YOU WOULD DO IF ALL THE BOSSES AND POLITICIANS WERE TO DISAPPEAR.
Send your answer, written on the margin of the next copy of HARD TIMES to 74 Raithburn Gardens, Castlemilk, Glasgow, G45.

SET MATT FREE

ALTHOUGH WE assess a man's worth by the main, the significant factors in his life, it is often the smaller actions that reveal his character. So it is with our labour "leaders".

As they hesitantly respond to the Tories' onslaught on living standards, a few brave souls have come forward to support the parole of the convicted murderer, Jimmy Boyle. Very good! But, we may ask, "Why have you maintained a shameful silence for six years on the plight of Matt Lygate?"

In 1973 the High Court in Glasgow sentenced four young men to a total of 81 years imprisonment on charges of bank robbery. On extremely flimsy evidence and the testimony of a single witness the following sentences were handed down:

McPherson	- 25 years	With the exception of
Doran	- 24 years	all were members
Lygate	- 23 years	of the small Workers
Lawson	- 6 years	Party of Scotland.

RECORD SENTENCES

In the face of these inhuman prison sentences - the longest ever passed by a Scottish court - there was a deafening silence from our Labour "leaders". All the Clydeside MPs were approached by the Defence Committee at the time for contributions to the Appeal Fund and vocal support in the campaign, but in vain. "Wait!", said James White, MP for Pollok, "till a Labour Government comes to power."

Well, the Labour Government has come and gone and neither Ross nor Millan did anything to review the case nor cut the astonishing sentences.

You see, "justice" must take its course. But is it justice to bury men in gaol? Had they been convicted of killing some old lady the courts would have been more lenient - but robbery... a crime against property... and with political overtones! For this the majesty of the law invokes several life sentences.

At the end of last year I spoke to the old socialist Harry McShane about approaching those MPs on the left regarding the Lygate case. If he did there has been no response. If he didn't, it doesn't matter for they wouldn't do anything anyway. To associate oneself with a talented criminal like Boyle (he's an artist and writes books, you know) has a certain quality about it, but there's no political mileage in Matt Lygate.

In the course of the next year, Matt Lygate may be considered for parole. The danger is that he won't get it. There are indications that entrenched political elements in the Scottish Office will prevent it. Matt's freedom may well depend on us. Let's start the campaign now to secure his release.

IN MAY 1978, six anarchists, Ronan Bennett, Iris Mills, Dafydd Ladd, Vince Stevenson, Trevor Dawton and Stewart Carr, were arrested by the Anti-Terrorist Squad in London and the south-east of England in a blaze of sensationalist and scare-mongering publicity concerning "bomb factories" and "terrorist cells".

The six were held as Category A prisoners (Top Security) in Brixton.

Iris Mills was held in solitary confinement in Brixton, normally an all-male prison. She was supposed to be so dangerous that Holloway was not secure enough to hold her.

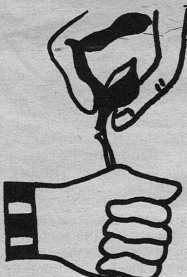
PARANOIA

The six were charged with "conspiracy to cause explosions" and the media hinted at links with Baader-Meinhof and the supposed 'International Terrorist Conspiracy'.

NO EVIDENCE

The only concrete evidence brought forward to substantiate the explosives charge was two tins of ordinary weedkiller and some wire found in the possession of Iris Mills and Ronan Bennett. The substance of the explosives charge appeared to be that the defendants knew one another and that two of them possessed materials which COULD be used to make explosives.

PERSONS UNKNOWN



This, alleged the A.T.S., constituted a conspiracy.

MANUFACTURED

It must be remembered that at the time of the arrests the A.T.S. had very little to do, there having been no I.R.A. activity for some time. Could it be that they felt they had to manufacture a conspiracy to help justify their existence? The lack of hard evidence for their charges certainly suggests this.

VAGUE

From the start the case has been a political one. The defendants are anarchists and this has been used as a major element in the case.

Det. Supt. Bradbury has called them "idealistic persons who would take positive steps to overthrow society". The main justification for their original treatment seems to have been that they were dangerous because of their beliefs despite the lack of hard evidence of any illegal activity.

At the same time Ronan Bennett has not been granted bail. This means that by the time of the trial in September he will have served the equivalent of a two year jail sentence with full remission. The main reason for this appears to be that he is Irish. Recorder Shindler in refusing bail at the Old Bailey gave as his reason - "I have looked at his antecedents. He was brought up in Ireland. We have to be realistic about these things - there are associations and there are dangers - we cannot have a man disappearing over the water."



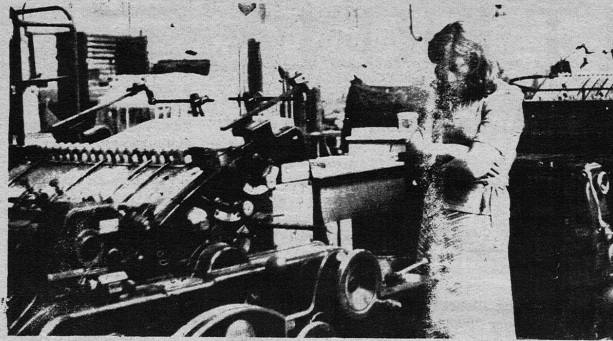
The A.T.S.'s terrorist conspiracy case, subject of so many sensationalist headlines, appears on close examination to be a rather insubstantial affair.

The trial date is still not set, even after a period of more than a year since the arrests, though it is believed it will take place in September. The scandal is that it should take place at all.

*****A support group, Persons Unknown, is considering organizing a demonstration around the start of the trial. Meanwhile they need donations to help with publicising the case and the defence of the accused. The address is:

PERSONS UNKNOWN
c/o RISING FREE
BOOKSHOP
182 UPPER STREET
LONDON N1.

INDUSTRIAL STRUGGLE



From office girls to print workers

The boss turned to the only male keypunch operator in our workplace (a computer-type-setting firm) and said "Jim, can you tell me what the following things are?" Then he rattled off a long list of printing terms, to each of which Jim, who has done a 5-year apprenticeship, said "Yes," with a mixture of pride and embarrassment.

The boss turned to the rest of us. "How many of you ladies know the answers to

those questions?"

Shamefaced silence—but only momentary; the awkward moment passed, and we went on arguing firmly.

The issue was that two of us "ladies" (one of them me) were getting more money than the others for no good reason; and we knew it. We had just happened to "come in through the right door", i.e. by approaching the National Graphical Association; we had no more printing background than the others, were less experienced at our particular job, and were only probationary union members whereas some of the others

had their membership (more about this later) and all were at least probationers. When hired, we were asked not to tell the others about the differential. Being in a poor employment position, I complied with this, but I did tell the union, who gave me some confusing stuff about the others being "trainees" (I didn't realise till it blew up how insubstantial this distinction was) and the shop steward having "everything under control".

Anyway, the "trainees" found out anyway and raised hell, although they were very nice to me and the other worker about it. In effect they had an unofficial stoppage, though some of them would faint if you put it that way to them. Everyone was just too angry or upset to work.

The boss (usually absent, fortunately) came down and harangued us saying while he agreed the differential was unfair he couldn't afford to close it and it should be gradually narrowed in future pay rounds, in other words the other "lady" and I should accept a partial pay

freeze. He implied that she and I had been hired by mistake and admitted to the union by mistake.

Among his remarks was "I wanted a total male staff from the trade. I'm not a good manager. I work better with men. It's just my personal weakness. . . . If I'm a chauvinist pig I apologise."



YES VOTE

Our shop steward (also a man from the trade) told us that the question of the differential was going through the union machinery. We demanded assurance that it would be closed—upwards—in the next paycheque, which was a month off. Pushed into a corner, he said "Yes," whereupon the boss started screaming about how he couldn't afford it.

After a long argument we took a vote on the proposition that the differential should be closed now, at management's expense. The vote was 10 yes, 5 abstentions and 1 no.

Among the 5 abstentions were all three men-from-the-trade connected with our workplace; Jim our co-worker, the office manager, and our NGA shop steward. (He's supposed to be called a Father of Chapel but I don't like using these medieval terms which are part of the craft mystique that keeps us down.) These three men,

despite their different roles, obviously identify with each other more than any of them does with us.

THE REAL COST

Any, the boss went off to think it over, came back after a quarter hour and announced that yes, he would borrow money (sob, sob) to close the differential, but that he was withdrawing all sick pay and was also withdrawing from the working mothers their former "privilege" of varying—not shortening, but varying, and only by a half hour or so—their hours in order to collect children.

After all, he observed all too correctly, variations in hours are against union regulations. Previously the shop steward had winked an eye at it; but the fact that the regulation existed gave management a weapon against us.

This particular move was a purely retaliatory one. Withdrawing sick pay may increase his profits, but withdrawing variable hours makes no difference to him financially.

FLEXITIME SENSE

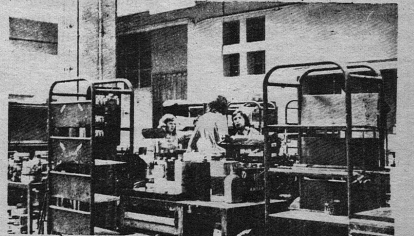
I don't know why the union opposes flexitime. It's an obviously happier arrangement for any worker, and it's the only way to get rid of discrimination against working parents. It just seems to go against the union's fanatical wish for order and discipline away with part-time work, casual work, self-employment, nationalise everything and have



bureaucrats instead of capitalists pushing you around.

After the dispute I said to the shop steward "He can't withdraw sick pay, can he? Isn't it illegal?" The shop steward just said indifferently, "No, he doesn't have to pay it."

In one of the bits of NGA bumph which are occasionally handed round the office, and for which, plus the tail end of the wages settlements, we pay £1 per week dues, I read that the union officials are now dis-



cussing setting up machinery for a national sick pay agreement. That's nice. One of the temp. agencies advertise sick pay as among the "normal" employment benefits that it offers—but we, working in a closed shop of one of the most powerful unions, can have it taken away at will.

JARGON

Not that we are "real" union members. We are "allied process" workers—and when, after an unpredictable number of months (one woman has been waiting for a year, though it's supposed to be three months) during which we pay our £1 a week dues, we get our union cards, we will just be "apprentices" for five years thereafter.



The shop steward explained this "apprenticeship" business to me—"You see, they only print three kinds of cards: full members, journeymen and apprentices." I was too concerned to laugh. All these super-skilled men-from-the-trade who run our union can't contrive to print a fourth kind of card to suit a new technology that just happens to depend on the traditional skills, and traditional working history, of women. By saving up all our dues for a month, couldn't they afford to take their problem to a local stationer-and-printer and have him print a fourth kind of card since it's beyond their ingenuity?

After this confrontation with its mixed results, we were depleted. Most of the women there are very anxious to preserve a friendly atmosphere and are personally averse to militancy. But the boss's petty harassments about timekeeping and productivity (one woman has had a nervous breakdown precipitated by a nasty warning letter from him) have put everyone's back up. We also know our power. We closed that differential without even mentioning the word "strike". Give us time.



CHERYL LADD
who says that life isn't always heavenly, even for an angel!

POPE TO VISIT GLASGOW

It's Official!

POPE JOHN Paul II will fly into Glasgow for the St. Cuthbert's Day celebrations. This was the shock news from Rome last night. The brief announcement came only hours after a speech by his Holiness in which capitalism was described as "swinish and humanly degrading".

He called on all true Christians to embrace the philosophy of anarchism and take over the means of production and exchange from the bosses. "Our salvation lies in our own hands", he said in his emotional appeal.

Before the stunned crowd of 79,000 in Milan's largest football stadium, His Holiness made special reference to Scotland as "a nation in the utmost peril". He drew attention to the proliferation of nuclear bases and the dumping of atomic waste in Scotland as "a crime against the Scottish people".

ATTACK

This has caused experts to predict that when the Pope reaches Glasgow he will make a scathing attack on the political set-up in Britain where all the political parties endorse the capitalist system.

As one Vatican insider explained: "All his years in Poland under the Nazis and the Communist Party he was like a flower hidden in the dark. Now that he is Pope, whenever he hears of areas of multiple deprivation, environmental pollution, large scale unemployment and social and political squalor, he is moved to go to that place and flay the bosses and the politicians who are, in the eyes of His Holiness, the main cause of human misery in the world".

FRANTIC

Sources in Whitehall admit that cabinet ministers and MPs of all parties are "quaking in their shoes" at the thought of ill-judged and inflammatory statements which the Pope may make during his tour of Scotland. The Scottish Office is particularly concerned that the Pontiff may allude to the gruesome conditions in Scottish prisons, with

the recent riots at Peterhead still fresh in the mind and the controversy over the "cages" at Porterfield still raging. The police too are worried that the Pope may mention the unexplained deaths of people whilst in police custody both North and South of the border.

PLEA

The word from the City is that shares have tumbled disastrously since the Pope's Scottish visit was announced. It was rumoured in London last night that a top civil servant was on his way to Rome in a last-ditch attempt to persuade His Holiness to call off the trip to North Britain in the interests of public safety. But it is generally conceded that there is little likelihood the Pope will alter his plans.



THE POPES TIMETABLE

THE BIG DAY

- 1.10pm Arrival of Vatican Jet at Glasgow Airport.
- 2.50 Estimated time of arrival at George Sq. of Pope leading a march of Socialists, Anarchists, Trade Unionists and Tenants Groups.
- 3.15 Estimated time of departure from George Sq. after circling and snubbing City Chambers and Inhabitants therein. On to the Horseshoe Bar for Pie & Beans, and small refreshment.
- 4.00 Tour of the Legendary Glasgow Underground Catacombs. Special Service for the Blessing of the Holy Relic - "St. Petters Bum" - found during excavations.
- 5.00 Auntie Jennies for dinner.
- 6.30 Mass singalong at Glasgow X.
- 7.00 Adjourn to "Sarry Heid" for Darts Championship needle-match with Pastor Glass. (Proceeds to Glasgow Anarchist Group).
- 11.30 Tiffanys for a Knees Up.



"Wow! If the Vatican's really like this, I'll switch any day"
Archbishop of Canterbury

"When one considers the basic subject matter, one can only lament an opportunity totally squandered. In vain I looked for spiritual dignity, historical veracity or a quick flash of public hair."
Prince Charles

"What a mind blower! ***** It doesn't take a pretentious spaced-out head like me to spot the clue in the title..... POPE... Dig the rhyme? POPE - DOPE... Right! THAT'S where it's at... and how! Whoosh!! ***** Far out, too much... like *****...NICE... yeah... al RIGHT... hmminimimim... zzzzzzzzzzSNORE!"
David Bowie

"SAINTS preserve us."
The Queen

"Yes it's all here!
So, go on, go and get an eyeful (and an earful) of the prancing prelate and the rest of the gang; you won't regret it. I was converted - and you'll be too; and I wouldn't mind betting my relics on that!"
Cliff Richard

Moderator explains his refusal to meet Pope

Undoubtedly the Pope has paid the Scots People the highest compliment in coming here. Characteristically the Scots people have thrown themselves into preparing their traditional hospitality, and as a result Brewery shares have trebled. Certainly the common man seems to have found a saviour in Pope John Paul II. In twelve months he has become the most popular man on earth. He is today, as his nick-name implies "John Paul Superstar", and his fans have gone into ecstasy just as much as the most fervent followers of Sinatra, Elvis or Linda Lovelace.

However, the Pope's hopes that the Scots people will throw off their shackles may be groundless. Is he fully aware of the proud subservience of the native Scot?

NO CHANCE!

Consider the millions of Scots who swaggered proudly to their death fighting in far flung corners of our once mighty Empire.

Think of the generations of Clansmen and women who meekly left their homes and crofts to the chieftains sheep. How passionately obsequious they were bobbing down and scraping to their Lords.

The Scot may talk like a rebel (especially with a drink in him), but he will always act like a patriot.

Like Mannie Shinwell and Jimmy Reid, the Scots are not rebels they are comedians.

The Times wishes the Pope all the luck in the world with his anarchist crusade - he'll certainly need it!

The Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Scotland explained last night in detail why he will not meet the Pope during his forthcoming Scottish tour. The attitude of the Moderator and of the Clerk of the Glasgow Presbytery has led to bitter debate within the Scottish churches.

In a personal statement last night the Moderator said: "Let me put it like this. I knew old Red Socks when he was just plain Lolek the Pole. And let me tell you right away, he had some very peculiar habits, even in those days. Far be it from me to calumniate the Holy Hiker, but I could tell you a few things that happened in Kracow that would make your thing stand on end. I don't want to be the one to point the finger, of course, but do you know that he wears a reinforced corset under his cassock?"

DISTURBING

To be perfectly frank, and believe me I am loathe to say it, poor old Karol Wojtyla was never really right in the head after his bad accident. Haven't you noticed how from time to time he falls down slavering at the mouth and licking the ground? Well, I ask you..."

The Moderator went on to stress that his unreadiness to meet Pope John Paul II sprang not from any personal feelings or animosities, although it was common knowledge that

the Pope imbibed large quantities of Vodka and Beer daily and had the unbecoming habit of singing in a loud voice and throwing his arms about, but from sound theological principles.

Concern

On thing is certain, however. The great debate within the Protestant churches is going to continue. Some of the main talking points are as follows:

Is God an astronaut?
Was Jesus on drugs?
Was Mary a house robot?
Should Rangers FC sign Papists
May sodomites enter the clergy?

Turn to Page 13



CLEAN

Dogs are dirty, birds are filthy, fish are clean except for the intestines which are dirty.

People love to wash and that's why in the eyes of Jesus they are best. Dogs don't go to heaven, they turn into worms, but good Christian people stay just the same, younger and smelling good all the time. All the people get washed when they die and sit at the table of Holy Lightning with Jesus, eating all that clean food. Jesus smiles when he sees the people washing. He knows that people like animals who eat any crap dirty.

Clean people who don't smell like vinegar sit at the table, only younger, with new hair, teeth and skin, all naked but not fornicating, eating all that clean food. That's why it's important to get the old folks soaped and combed and into bed between those nice sheets boiled four times and ironed into nice even creases — twelve creases for Jesus — and their toenails pared. Our old people look good, just simple people the color of milk and veal roast. When it's time Jesus calls them, He says: "O have you pared your nails?" And they answer: "O yes, Sweet Lord, we have pared our nails and ironed our sheets twelve times." And Jesus says: "Are you clean?" Which is a joke because He knows that they are and the old folks laugh a lot at this. And Jesus says: "Do you smell good and are you the color of veal roast?" And the old folks answer: "O yes, Lord, we smell good and we are clean and our thoughts are like white sauce and our blood is like water and we are ready, O Sweet Jesus."

Then Jesus gathers them up in His arms and gives them clean teeth, the better to eat at His Holy Table, and clean ears, the better to hear His Holy Music, and clean eyes, the better to see and worship Him.

ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

READY... STEADY... HEAVE!

ANOTHER WAY OF LIFE

Solar heating, organic gardens, rain-powered typewriters — not science fiction but the day-to-day life of several families who are hot on the self-sufficient trail.

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LEARNING FROM LIFE

A LOOK INSIDE WHITELION FREE SCHOOL.

I always get a lot of pleasure from visiting White Lion Street School. It is not just the friendly informality of the place, there is something else - an atmosphere of excitement and vitality. There is always something interesting going on.

The last time I was there, half the school were vigorously debating blood sports. And a lively debate it was too, with the youngest (about 5), putting across her point just as strongly as the adults - and listening just as carefully. In fact I noticed it was the children rather than the adults who insisted on politeness if anyone interrupted.

The children were not obliged to attend the debate - indeed they are not obliged to attend any event. They were there because they were interested.

Some of the pupils who were not interested in the debate were helping to make the school dinners in the kitchen (stuffed baked potatoes and crinkly kale - delicious). In theory there is a rota for who makes the

Many people would not think of these activities as "real" education - but what is real education? Is it sweating over latin grammar? Or learning the dates of medieval battles? Or night the answer be found back in the White Lion Kitchen...? "How many pounds of potatoes do we need?"



meal and who does the dishes, but again there is no rigid adherence to the role.

Some of the children were there because it was their turn, others because like most children they are interested in new experiences and doing new things. Things like horse riding, skating, puppet-making, woodwork, musical plays, and a host of other things which are all part of White Lion.

"Read the recipe".
"But the recipe is for four people not 40".
"Well multiply it!".
"Where did you buy these spuds anyway?".
And so on.
That is REAL maths, REAL reading, REAL domestic science and those who bought the spuds experienced REAL economics, REAL business management and a dozen other REAL experiences



Are you interested in FREE SCHOOLS, ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION and COMMUNITY BASED TEACHING?

The Glasgow Free School Association exists to further these ideas and help put them into practice. We believe that the State system of education exists to serve the State and industry. It does not serve the children's needs.

The curriculum is irrelevant and when the kids rebel against this they are literally beaten into conformity.

If you are interested, phone David 041 631 3570

which educationalists persist in ignoring. Of course the children are taught arithmetic, Reading, and Writing, but unlike most kids, they have to use the skills in the kitchen; at the market; in the post-office; and all the other places they go to as part of their school week.

To my mind this is what White Lion is all about. Education is part and parcel of everyday life. The world is full of exciting and interesting things - kids know this, and are keen to learn given a chance. Children are born with a curiosity and desire to do things. White Lion encourages these natural, healthy desires in an atmosphere of support and freedom.

What a contrast this is to the long dreary boredom of my own school days. Sitting chained to a desk while some old fart droned on and on - he probably wanted to be out of there as much as we did.

It is true the occasional teacher managed to make metaphysical poetry or something seem interesting, but what a waste of time it all was. You learned virtually nothing that was any use.

Is it any wonder that so many people just want to leave as soon as they can? Why should they care for similes and latin grammar? They want to be welders or shop fitters, or housewives, or just free of school even if that means going on the dole.

After all the school has already decided those kids don't matter. The people they are interested in are the NEW MANAGERS the next generation of middle class. The whole school is geared towards preening them for exams.

And why not? The school has already decided these kids don't matter. The whole place is totally dedicated to the minority of kids who will be academically successful. In short middle-class teachers select middle-class kids and pin labels on them; THE NEW MANAGERS. If they do the job well, then everyone accepts that a privileged class is justified.

The fact that a few working class sons and daughters learn to ape their middle class 'betters' and move up the social ladder is irrelevant. So too is all the recent rubbish about new and 'fairer' exams.

The emphasis on competition will be even stronger and it will be easier for people to accept the con-trick that we need a privileged class.

Co-operation, not competition is the key to White Lion Free School. Each adult and every kid has responsibility for running the school. All decisions are made at the school council meetings and a child's voice can count for as much as an adult's. There are no head teachers or leaders, because the people at White Lion believe that you cannot have true democracy unless you have true equality and that means no hierarchies.

Everyone takes a turn at doing the various jobs. They even carefully rotate public appearances so that on one person becomes a "star".

To my mind White Lion Free School is organised in the same way as an anarchist would like to see the whole of society run. So we asked one of the adult workers how the system worked:

"It works remarkably well. We have a rota system and everyone shares the cooking, cleaning, washing and administration".

Are all the staff qualified teachers?

"There are two parents who work here - one part-time and one full-time. They're not qualified and don't leave degrees. One is a 'local' mother. Because her children came here she became more and more involved.

We don't believe qualifications are necessary in White Lion School,



but we encourage people to stretch themselves and take courses in any area they feel inadequate".

Had they any trouble with the unions?

"We prefer to call ourselves 'workers' rather than 'teachers'. NUT members don't approve of what we are doing, because we emphasise de-professionalising education. We are joining the T&GWU".

The media has tended to emphasise the success White Lion has had with so-called 'problem kids'. Are they happy with this image?

"We have a wide mixture of kids (from nursery age upwards) many of whom did not have any problems in the ordinary schools. It is quite wrong to portray us as a truancy centre. Our approach helps EVERY kind of child".



Danger! Idiot at work

THIS BLOODY IDIOT
McLENNAN

In Glasgow, a city with one of the worst housing records in Britain, strange things are happening. In yet another desperate attempt to get their own house in order, the district council have established new management structures in their various offices of their Housing Management Dept.

In Castlemilk, a post-war scheme of about 10,000 houses and 45,000 occupants, the new housing manager there, McLennan, is the latest in a long line of idiots.

Mind you've had hundreds of them before, but this McLennan is the stupidest bloody idiot of them all. Why? Get tuned and listen.

This idiot was given the gift of deciding how a quarter of a million pounds of our money should be used to help the Castlemilk people to make life more pleasant. Such as play-areas for children, New

sinks and baths; help for the elderly with winter problems or any sensible idea that the money could be used for.

He has power to back any good idea needing cash, suggested to him by the people of Castlemilk.

He was instructed by our councillors to hold meetings and find out what we had to suggest.

SO YOU WANT AN ADVENTURE PLANSQUID EHI I THINK WE CAN GUARANTEE YOU CRENTY OF ADVENTURE JUST CROSSING THE ROAD



What happened? - this fly man is an ecologist - he likes flowers - he likes spending money - he knows the people of Castlemilk understand the beauty of having nice looking gardens. He also has friends who have businesses that sell bulbs and trees. And what do you think he decided? He decided he would not hold any meetings with the people of Castlemilk until HE decided how to spend OUR money. And here's how he spent it:

Out of £250,000 he spent £20,000 on planting bulbs, £30,000 on planting trees, £15,000 on plants and shrubs, £40,000 on gardens and hedges, trip trails for walks and decoration £45,000, totaling £150,000 on bulbs, trees, plants, shrubs, greenery and hedges and trip ways - yes £150,000.

How's that!! When we in Castlemilk claimants union got wind of this, we told him 'No! Help the people,

He said, he will spend OUR money as he wants to. He would allocate only £85,000 for two games courts and £5,000 for a wall out of the total £250,000!

We have asked him to give £10,000 for a resource centre. He promised he would if we worked hard and came up with a plan, legal and helpful to the people of Castlemilk. We did, and guess what he said?

"Because I had already decided before we met you're not getting any of YOUR money I'm spending it in the way I want to!"



DO IT ~ YOURSELF

All the shadow boxing is over between the T.U. leaders of the engineering unions and the employers.

Most workers now know that the conventional means of strike; going on the cobble stones have had their day. Many more effective forms of strike action have been devised within recent decades. The rank and file are aware of them. Aren't the T.U. leaders?

Imagination is there but seriousness is not. The reason why these arch-deceptionists called a two day strike is because they don't have to pay strike benefit money. Furthermore, they may not be able to control a general strike and this is important to them.

Trade unions want to control their members. Officialdom has a stake in the system. Hence the reason why officials oppose the idea of unionism operating against the system for a radical change.

Much re-shaping of thought has to be performed. Many militants still think that the trade unions are still to be used merely as a defensive weapon against the employer and as a tool to discredit any particular government. They do not foresee any development of unionism replacing government as such.

Unionism, therefore, remains a house divided against itself. Unions are divided and sub-divided. Instead of there being one union for each industry we have a host of different unions within any given industry. One union would make many officials redundant. It would also tend to develop class solidarity.

The T.U.C. not wanting a repetition of the engineers prolonged strike are now advocating action at local level. This would be more effective against the onslaught of government attacks on working class standards of living. However co-operation and co-ordination are essential.

Although each factory may adopt its own means of struggle it would be conducive to have links through the respective

works committees. In this way perhaps two or more factories could work in union to mutual advantage. It is also essential for workers to start thinking in terms of ownership and control of industry by their own do-it-yourself-movement. This would tend to create an industrial organisation on a class basis rather than on the basis of craft as in the older unions or as a motley mass as in the younger unions such as the "Transport and General Workers Union".



The T.U.C. of course are advocating action at local level for obvious reasons to this writer. They do not want to call a national general strike in case workers remember the parody of the general strike in 1926. Then they left all the means of production in the hands of the employers.

In remembering this they may decide to vote with their feet and march into the factories. This would be giving birth to a new healthy society. It would be the prelude to the social revolution long overdue.

R. Lynn

MONEY MATTERS, (or does it?)

Two chaps boarded a train and sat in the same compartment! This was the patter.

"Going far?"
"No, just a couple of stops. I'm going down for the weekend to see my brother-in-law. He has a few weeks free. He's on strike."

"What does he work at?"
"He works in the mint, printing money."

"Your joking, of course."

"No, not in the least."

"What's he on strike for then? - No, don't tell me! More money! Right? I would have thought he was already making plenty of money."

"Not for himself, though."

"But that's daft! If he goes on strike for a wage increase, it means the price of money will increase. Therefore, his increase will decrease in value, as the value of the pound decreases."

"You're only half right. As it happens, the mint have installed new printing presses which print twice as many notes in the same time as the old presses. So they double the output, which gives the mint workers a rise, as they are on bonus. But if they produce two

pounds in place of one, then the law of supply and demand means the value of the pound will have decreased by 50% and will be worth only 50p. The amount of money, say £30, they are paid in wages will then be worth only half its present value, and that would be £15. So they need £60 in notes to equal the present value of £30. That's the real reason they are on strike."

"Why don't they take it to arbitration?"

"Oh, they did."

"What happened?"

"Well, there were three chaps on the arbitration tribunal and they were to be paid £10 per day for six days, which would be £60 each. However, that was before they knew what the dispute was about. When they did find out they noticed the £60 would only be worth £30 when the strike was over, so they asked for a built-in settlement that would give them £120. The mint refused to put this into a written contract since no de-valuation of the pound has, as yet, taken place, so the arbitrators held a meeting and went on strike and the mint had to call in another arbitrator to arbitrate in the arbitrators strike."

"What if all the strikers lose their case?"

"Oh, Christ, I hate to think. As I pointed out, the pound will

be worth only 50p, which equals a 50% reduction in real wages. That will only buy half the goods we can but now, which will mean a 50% increase in prices. Naturally the Union will want a 50% increase in cost of living bonus, but the government will allow only a 10% wage increase which will be equal to approximately £6 which equals the value of £3. The Union will recommend £12 to be equal to the value of £6. Because of the 50% price increase nobody will be able to buy anything which will lead to cut backs in production. Workers will be paid off and we will have massive unemployment. As the mint workers become unemployed, the production of money will ease off, which will mean an increase in its value because of its scarcity. This rise will bring the pound back to its present value and everyone's dolc money will have doubled. People will have so much money to throw around it will cause raging inflation and the country will go bankrupt."

"Doesn't seem possible, does it? Why are you going to see your brother-in-law anyway?"

"Oh, I'm going to try and borrow a few quid. Things are a bit rough. For the past three weeks I've been on strike!"

"Hey fiddle, the and the fiddle."

What is the missing word?

5. What have all these shapes in common?

2. A = 1
B = 2
C = ?

3. Which is the odd man out?



STRATHCLYDE POLICE IQ TEST

1. What is the next number in this sequence?
1 2 3 4 5 6...?